

Year	No. of Passengers	Amount earned (in Lakhs)
1993-94	1,78,012	1788.80
1994-95	1,38,919	1735.16
1995-96	1,12,523	2110.82

In addition, private airlines are also operating their services in Rajasthan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Running of Goods Trains Without Guards

6346. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Goods Trains are being run without Guards in the Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway and major collisions occurred at Garwa Road in Eastern Railway and Gollegunda of South Central Railway;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Guards are available to work on the above mentioned trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Guards who have already taken over charge have been asked to 'Sign off' and the trains were allowed to run without Guard by the concerned officer;

(e) if so, the persons found guilty for not posting the guards on the goods trains and action taken against them;

(f) whether there are any instances wherein the staff was forced to violate safety rules and caused accidents;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the number of trains which were running without Guards per month keeping the Guards available;

(i) whether this system is in force in other zones also; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, trains are permitted to be run without Guards only in special circumstances by taking adequate precautions as laid down in General and Subsidiary Rules.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Nil.

(i) No, Sir.

(j) Does not arise.

Telecom Regulatory Authority

6347. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the setting up of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India the work in the Telecom Deptt. of his Ministry has decreased making it to look into the policy making and operational aspects; and

(b) if so, the details of the work to be handled by the Ministry and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to be handled separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Ordinance (No. 11 of 1997) promulgated on 25th January, 1997, the Central Government set up the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) with effect from 20th February, 1997 to provide a level playing field for fair competition and to engender further confidence in investors. Subsequently, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Ordinance, 1997 was replaced by an Act of Parliament. The powers and functions of the Authority are expected to enable it to effectively perform the role of watch-dog for the Telecom Sector.

2. In the context of the National Telecom Policy, 1994 whose objectives inter-alia include, achieving universal service, raising the quality of telecom services to world standards, providing a wide range of services to meet customers demands at reasonable prices, providing for participation of companies registered in India in basic and value-added services, making arrangements for protection and promotion of consumers interests and ensuring fair competition, it was felt that separation of regulatory from service-providing functions was called for. The functions assigned to the TRAI include the following:

(a) recommend the need and timing of introduction of a new service provider;

(b) recommend the terms and conditions of licence to a service provider;

(c) ensure technical compatibility and effective inter-connection between different services providers;

(d) regulate arrangements of sharing of revenue, derived from providing telecommunications services, between different services providers;